

PRESENTATION OF MONUMENT TO MEXICO

JULY 1, 1964.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. SELDEN, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted the following .

REPORT

[To accompany S. 944]

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 944), to provide for the presentation by the United States to the people of Mexico of a monument commemorating the independence of Mexico, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendment and recommend unanimously that the bill do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Beginning on line 10, page 1, after "SEC. 2", strike out the words "There are authorized to appropriate such sums as may be necessary", and insert in lieu thereof "There is hereby authorized to be appropriated not in excess of \$150,000".

PURPOSE

This bill authorizes and requests the Secretary of State to procure a statue of Lincoln and present it on behalf of the people of the United States to the people of Mexico in commemoration of the independence of that country. The statue is to be prepared only after the design, plans, and specifications have been approved by the Commission of Fine Arts. As amended, the bill authorizes an appropriation not to exceed \$150,000 to defray the estimated total cost, which includes \$75,000 to compensate the artist, \$25,000 for casting, \$15,000 for insurance at all stages, \$5,000 for transportation, \$25,000 for preparation of the site and erection of statue and pedestal, and \$5,000 for expenses of a delegation to make the presentation.

BACKGROUND

In 1961, a bill identical to S. 944 was passed by the Senate, but no action was taken in the House before adjournment of the 87th Con-

gress. In the 87th Congress bills on the same subject were sponsored by Representative Lipscomb, H.R. 1014; Representative McDonough, H.R. 1025; and Representative Holifield, H.R. 5901. S. 944 was introduced on February 28, 1963, by Senator Kuchel, for himself and Senators Engle, Goldwater, Gruening, Javits, Long of Missouri, McGee, Mechem, Morse, Scott, Tower, and Yarborough. Similar bills were introduced in the House by Representatives Roybal, H.R. 6646; Edwards, H.R. 10704; Cameron, H.R. 10764; King of California, H.R. 10806; Holifield, H.R. 10895; Wright, H.R. 10905; Martin of California, H.R. 10979; Miller of California, H.R. 10989; Corman, H.R. 11056; and Kilgore, H.R. 11271. The bill was reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations to the Senate on February 26, 1964, and passed the Senate without objection on the following day. It was subsequently considered by the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs and ordered favorably reported to the full committee on June 17. At its next meeting, the Foreign Affairs Committee, on July 1, unanimously ordered the bill reported.

RECOMMENDATION OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE

In a letter dated September 23, 1963, the Department of State commented favorably on S. 944 as follows:

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter of March 5, 1963, forwarding for the Department's comments S. 944, a bill to provide for the presentation by the United States to the people of Mexico a monument commemorating the independence of Mexico, and for other purposes, which would authorize the procurement of a statue of Lincoln for this purpose.

Abraham Lincoln is widely respected in Mexico, and there is no prominent statue of Lincoln in Mexico City. When this proposal was before the Congress in 1960, the year in which Mexico celebrated its sesquicentennial of independence, the Department consulted appropriate Mexican officials. The Mexican Government seemed pleased by the proposal and offered to provide a site whenever the donation might be made. Presumably the Mexican Government continues to be of the same views.

In the absence, however, of a special celebration by Mexico similar to the sesquicentennial held in 1960, it would appear more appropriate now to link the donation of a statue with the centenary of Lincoln's death on April 15, 1965. If such legislation were enacted this year, there would be a period in which the Department could arrange for execution of a statue and preparation of a site. However, depending on circumstances outlined below, a presentation in 1965 might have to be symbolic.

The Department believes that if a statue is presented, it should be offered for erection at a site to be decided by the Mexican Government. The Department understands that the Mexican Government would desire to place the statue in Mexico City.

It is understood that the Government of Mexico will donate a suitable site. It would seem that the United States

should assume the cost for erection of the statue, including design and construction of the pedestal, preparation of the site, and essential landscaping. In 1960 the Commission of Fine Arts wrote the Department, "after studying the costs of recent monuments, that \$150,000 would be required to finance a monument with an original design for a figure of Abraham Lincoln and to provide a proper base and setting but no landscaping. If a replica of an existing monument is desired, about half of this amount should suffice. The Commission would strongly urge that an original and not a replica of an existing monument be sent to Mexico, if possible. Rising costs in production of sculpture, as in other fields, make firmer estimates impossible at this time." The Department has informally consulted the Commission again and is informed that in all probability this estimate would continue to be an indication of the likely cost, with the understanding that it was not firm in 1960 and would be less so today.

Of the \$150,000, it is estimated that \$75,000 would be required to compensate the sculptor for design of the statue and pedestal. That this figure is not excessive is shown by the fact that a sculptor was paid \$75,000 in the 1930's for a figure of Lincoln. He worked on it for 3 years, he has written, to make it the best work of which he was capable. Any American sculptor in performing a work of this kind must, of course, not only satisfy himself and his public, but also compete with great statues executed by recognized masters of the past. Thus 2 years or more should be allowed for the execution, and the artist should be appropriately remunerated.

Of the remaining estimated cost, \$25,000 would be for casting. Insurance at all stages might amount to \$15,000. Transportation is estimated at \$5,000 and preparation of the site and erection of the statue and pedestal at \$25,000. The traveling expenses of an appropriate delegation would account for the final \$5,000.

The committee will note that the Commission of Fine Arts strongly recommended that an original and not a replica be presented to Mexico. As the committee will readily realize, there are arguments both for and against an original work. An original work would enhance both the nature and significance of the gift, as well as hopefully contribute to the advancement of the arts in America. On the other hand, there might be some risk that the result would not compare favorably with existing statues. A replica of an existing statue might cost considerably less, depending on the statue selected and the availability of a mold, although it is doubtful, however, that the cost could be cut in half by using a replica. Taking into account all aspects inherent in the gift, the Department of State, too, favors an original, but does not wish to press this recommendation upon the committee.

The Department of State would certainly perceive no objection to the enactment of this legislation. A distinguished statue of this highly regarded American statesman in the capital city would continuously attract attention and might

serve a public interest for both Mexico and the United States. The Department would be glad to undertake the project and attempt to carry it out in a manner befitting the objectives of the bill and memory of the President whose Secretary of State declared that "peace, order, and constitutional authority in each and all of the several Republics of this continent are not exclusively an interest in any one or more of them but a common and indispensable interest of them all."

The Bureau of the Budget advises that from the standpoint of the administration's program there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

FREDERICK G. DUTTON,
Assistant Secretary
(For the Secretary of State).

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The committee concurs with the view expressed by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, that presentation to Mexico of a statue of Lincoln would be most appropriate because the memory of Lincoln is cherished by the Mexican people for his sympathetic concern for them during the period that Mexico was struggling to regain its independence from European domination. The presentation of such a statue of Lincoln in 1965, the 100th anniversary of his death, would have particular significance.

In approving the bill, the committee expects the Commission on Fine Arts to give most careful consideration to the advisability of procuring a replica of an existing statue of Lincoln, instead of an original statue. Aside from cost factors, it was felt to be of prime importance to insure a recognizable likeness.

As passed by the Senate, the bill placed no limit on the appropriation authorization. The committee amended the bill to place an authorization ceiling of \$150,000, with the understanding that while this is the amount estimated as needed by the Commission on Fine Arts, the full amount might not be necessary.

With this amendment, and the recommendation to the Commission on Fine Arts to consider procurement of a replica of an existing statue, the committee recommends enactment of this bill as an appropriate and timely token of the good will and friendship held by the American people toward the people of Mexico.

